

## APPROVES REPEAL OF JUDGES' PENSION

House Committee Recommends  
Bill With Amendment Pro-  
tecting Judge Keith.

## TORRENS MEASURE REPORTED

Browning Introduces Antivice  
Statute Embodying Drastic  
Injunction Feature.

By a divided vote, the House Committee for Courts of Justice reported favorably yesterday the bill introduced by Delegate Ruck, which provides for the repeal of the act passed in 1914, providing pensions for judges of the State Supreme Court of Appeals upon retirement after twelve years of continuous service, and after they have reached the age of seventy years.

Before voting to report the measure, however, the committee engrafted an amendment which provides that the repeal shall not apply to Supreme Court judges who retire from service during the years 1914 and 1915. With respect to these, the terms of the act of 1914 remain in full force and effect. The amendment will protect Judge James Keith, who will retire February 1, 1917, and who will be succeeded on the bench by Judge Frederick William Sims, of Louisa.

## ACT HAS ENCOUNTERED MUCH HOSTILITY

The act providing pensions for retiring judges of the Supreme Court has encountered hostility in many quarters, and it was looked upon as certain long before the General Assembly convened that a determined effort will be made at the present session to have the law repealed. It is reported unofficially that the vote on the repealing bill in the committee was 8 to 5.

Advocates of the Torrens bill legislation gathered in force in the hall of the House of Delegates last night to submit argument before the House Committee for Courts of Justice. The committee saw no advantage to be gained by listening to argument that the bill was probably rejected on the floor of the House when the bill is reached on the calendar and voted overwhelmingly to report it with the recommendation that it pass. Friends of the bill were quite satisfied with this prompt action, interpreting it as an indication that the measure will encounter little difficulty in being enacted into law.

## BROWNING OFFERS ANTIVICE MEASURE

The introduction by Delegate Browning, of Orange, of a drastic antivice bill was yesterday a distinct contribution to the general feeling of the Assembly that is expected to hold the first night of the present session of the General Assembly. The bill is practically a copy of the measure introduced at the session of 1914 by Delegate Land, of Nottoway. It was referred to the new Committee on Moral and Social Welfare.

In its provision for proceedings against the owner of property used for immoral purposes, as well as the lessee, the bill resembles closely the law under which the restricted district was abolished two years ago in Washington, D. C. If it becomes law, drastic means will be provided for the closing of every improper resort in Virginia, whether or not such place has in the past been free from molestation by the police.

## DECLARED TO BE NUISANCES WHICH MAY BE ENJOINED

The bill declares the establishment, construction, maintenance, ownership, occupation or lease of any house or building used for recognized immoral purposes which are specifically enumerated a nuisance to be enjoined by the courts. Wherever such nuisance is kept, the bill provides, the Commonwealth's attorney, the Attorney-General of the State or any responsible citizen may maintain an action in equity in the name of the State to perpetually enjoin such nuisance, the persons conducting it and the owner or agent of the building or ground on which the nuisance is situated. If satisfied that there is ground for suspecting a violation of the law, the judge of any court, the bill provides, may, upon petition, grant a temporary writ of injunction, the violation of which is to be punished as contempt.

That it is provided, is to be held promptly, and if the nuisance is established, an order of abatement is to be entered as part of the judgment. The court will thereupon direct the removal from the building all fixtures, furniture and other property used in conducting the nuisance, to be sold in the manner provided for the sale of chattels under execution. The abatement order will close the house for a year, during which time any person entering or using the building so directed to be closed will be punishable for contempt.

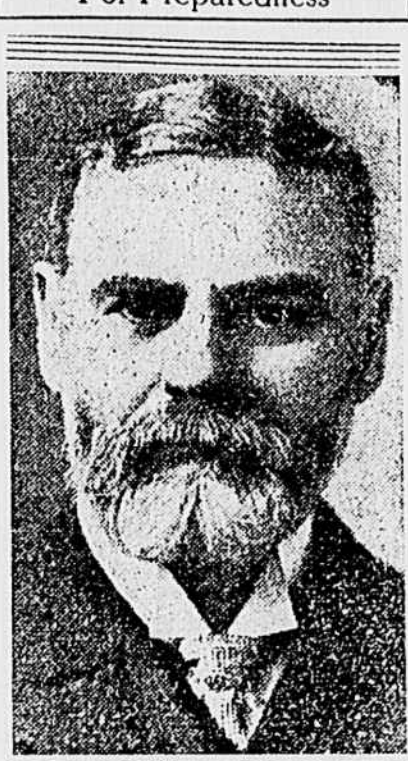
## OWNER MAY GIVE BOND TO ABATE NUISANCE

The proceeds arising from the sale of the chattels, it is provided, shall be applied to the payment of the costs of the action and satisfaction of the balance, if any, shall be paid to the defendant. If the owner pays all costs of the proceedings and files a satisfactory bond, guaranteeing that he will himself immediately abate the nuisance and prevent its re-establishment for one year, the court, the bill provides, may cancel the order of abatement as to the building only. The release of the property under this section, it is provided, shall not, however, release it from judgments, liens, penalties or liabilities, to which it may be subject by law.

A final section provides that the attorney for the Commonwealth, or other attorney representing the prosecution for violation of this statute,

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

## For Preparedness



JAMES R. MANN.

## TARIFF INVESTIGATION BY NONPARTISAN BOARD

Formal Announcement Is Made That President Wilson Favors Creation of Commission.

## HOPES FOR SPEEDY ACTION

Feels Justified in Pressing for Enactment of Measure Because of Present International Conditions and Those to Follow After War.

WASHINGTON, January 25.—An announcement was made to-night that President Wilson favors the creation of an independent, nonpartisan commission, with broad powers to investigate tariff duties, the relations between industries at home and abroad, and the entire tariff and commercial machinery of the world.

The President discussed his plan at length to-day with Representative Kitchin, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and asked that the committee consider it immediately with the view of getting action during the present session of Congress. To-morrow he expects to lay the matter before Senator Simmons, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Later he may call the Congress on the subject, although to-night it was said this was improbable.

## WHY HE FEELS JUSTIFIED IN ASKING FOR COMMISSION

Although the President has previously taken the position that the power of a tariff commission already are held by the existing government bureaus, he told Mr. Kitchin he felt justified in pressing for the creation of a separate commission at this time because of unusual international conditions, and on account of interest the United States will have in commercial adjustments after the present upheaval.

Representative Kitchin said he personally thought the Federal Trade Commission should be clothed with whatever additional powers might be necessary, but that he believed a majority of the Ways and Means Committee favored a new independent body. The President made it plain he did not think the proposed commission should be established with the view of unholing or criticizing any particular tariff policy, but should be entirely nonpartisan, and capable of gathering facts without any political bias.

The President proposed that such a commission would have such powers as to investigate the administrative and fiscal effects of customs laws now in force or which may be passed in the future.

To determine the difference between rates on raw materials and those on finished or partly finished products.

To investigate the effects of ad valorem and specific duties and of those which are a compound of ad valorem and specific.

To examine the arrangement of schedule duties and the classification of the articles on several schedules.

To investigate the provisions of law relating to the tariff and the regulations of the Treasury Department applying to invoices, and other questions with application to the collection of customs duties.

To determine generally the working of the customs and tariff laws in their economic and efficiency methods.

## WOULD COLLECT DATA ON TARIFF RELATIONS

In addition, the President desires that the tariff commission would be able to collect much data throwing light on the tariff relations between the United States and foreign countries, the rates of duties imposed on American products by foreign countries, the existence and effects of discriminating duties, the effects of commercial treaties and preferential agreements the results of export bounties, and the effects of any special or discriminating duties imposed by the United States.

The new use of the tariff commission proposed by the President would be to discover the possibility of establishing new industries or developing old ones such as the production of dyestuffs, by the use of scientific and practical methods.

Damaged by Bad Weather. STORNOWAY, SCOTLAND, January 25.—The Swedish steamer Gracela, from Baltimore, January 5, for Stockholm, has put in here, damaged by severe weather.

NORFOLK VIA C. & O. Three fast daily trains leave Richmond 9:00 A. M., 12 noon and 4:00 P. M.

## MINORITY LEADER SUPPORTS WILSON

Mann, "Little Navy" Advocate, Declares Emphatically for Adequate National Defense.

## ADDRESS IS SIGNIFICANT

Better Spend Millions Now Than Billions When War Is at Hand.

WASHINGTON, January 25.—In a brief and carefully worded and at times impassioned speech, Representative Mann, of Illinois, minority leader of the House, to-day came out emphatically for national preparedness and for strengthening of national defenses along the line, as well as the upbuilding of home industries as part of the plan.

While it has been understood that most of the Republicans favored army and navy increases, until to-day none of their leaders had spoken on the subject. Consequently, coming, as it did, on the eve of the President's departure on a preparedness-speaking tour, Mr. Mann's address was regarded as particularly significant.

Mr. Mann's speech was regarded as the more significant from the fact that he opposed to military expansion, and was recognized as a "little-navy" advocate.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Mann made the statement that he regarded war with England as more likely than war with Germany in the future.

## MUST PREPARE TO-DAY FOR EVENTS OF TO-MORROW

Representative Mann said he had been recognized heretofore as opposed to a large standing army and was properly known as a "little-navy" man. "But," he said, "wise men ought to look forward and be prepared to-day for what may come to-morrow. The greatest struggle of the world is now going on among all the great nations of the world except the United States. Each side is not only fighting for its own existence, but each side fighting to push the other side out of existence. Nothing like it has ever been seen before. No one knows what will result from the present war, nor whether it may finally lead this country into a struggle for our own preservation."

"I think the present conflict is liable and likely to last for many years before the mastery is determined," said Mr. Mann, "and it seems to me that the part of wisdom for us is to thoroughly prepare ourselves for what it is possible may come."

This sentiment was loudly applauded on the Republican side, apparently almost unanimously, and by approximately half the Democrats. Mr. Mann went on to say that it will be expensive to prepare for maintaining peace.

"Two years ago," he said, "no one would have dreamed of the possibility of the expenditures already involved by the European nations."

"We can better afford to-day to spend hundreds of millions of dollars, or a few billions, of dollars to avoid war, than a few years later to have to spend untold billions after the trouble begins," said Mr. Mann.

Again the Republicans applauded vigorously and the Democrats lukewarmly.

## WOULD SPEND LAST DOLLAR WHEN TIME REALLY COMES

"It is wise for us now to commence our preparations, for we know that when the time comes we would spend our last dollar to defend our homes."

Mr. Mann said we should increase the standing army, add to the coast fortification and provide an adequate navy to protect the seas.

"I have more fear," said Mr. Mann, "of war with England than of war with Germany. I think that we ought to provide these great measures of defense as emergency measures, and aside from the routine, not as a partisan effort, but in loyalty to our country."

He thought further that the upbuilding of home industries should be provided, "so that in case of becoming involved in war we can live within ourselves."

"If there ever was a time in the history of our country," said Mr. Mann, "when we ought to invite and receive expressions from all sides, this is the time, so that out of it may come a policy which will enable us to uphold in the future our national honor and our modern civilization, which I fear may break down on this side of the water."

"We must decide whether we shall take the chance of disaster or to provide now against that disaster," said Mr. Mann in conclusion. As he took his seat he was greeted with prolonged applause on the Republican side, in which many Democrats joined.

## SHUBERTS ARE SUED

Mother of Late Clyde Fitch Makes Attempt to Collect Royalties Said to Be Due.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, January 25.—Alleging that the Shuberts owe the estate of her son, the late Clyde Fitch, the playwright, \$15,000 in royalties, Mrs. Alice H. Fitch to-day brought suit in the Supreme Court against the theatrical managers.

Fitch adapted two plays from the German, "Girls" and "The Blue Mouse," and, according to his mother's attorney, Joseph M. Proskauer, the playwright had an agreement with the Shuberts which called for their sharing evenly 10 per cent of the gross after 3 per cent had been paid to the German authors.

Mrs. Fitch contends that the Shuberts did pay the 3 per cent to the Germans while the two plays were produced in the big houses, but ceased the payments immediately they went into stock.

## VIGOROUS REPLY TO NEWSPAPERS

British Government Issues Four-Column Answer to Daily Mail and London Post.

## EXPLAINS TRADE FIGURES

Action Is Taken in View of To-Day's Important Debate on Blockade.

LONDON, January 25.—In anticipation of to-morrow's important debate in the House of Commons on the blockade question, the British government to-day issued a four-column statement challenging and refuting statistics recently published in the Daily Mail and the Morning Post concerning what those newspapers have declared the hugely increased imports into the neutral countries of Holland and Scandinavia since the beginning of the war.

The statement is subjected to detailed and minute figures covering all the ground with the Daily Mail and the Morning Post for the purpose of showing numerous cases in which errors have crept into figures and in some instances been ignored.

Concerning cotton, figures are given showing that very large quantities of the staple were imported before the full effect of the order in council was felt, but it is stated that since April imports have been restricted to the normal quantities imported before the war.

Thus, says the statement, the imports of the whole year of 1912 were 73,708 tons, and in 1915, 26,451 tons. For the period from May to December, inclusive, however, the figures, as given by the statement, are 49,139 tons in 1913 and 52,143 tons in 1915.

The statement says the Morning Post's statistics completely ignore the fact that in normal times all European countries obtain great supplies from Germany and Russia. It is forgotten, the statement adds, that Russia annually exports 300,000 bushels of grain, which must now come from other available sources.

The statement points out that the Daily Mail's figures were all derived from the Danish daily commercial paper, Borsen. It says the figures were greatly inflated by the inclusion of cargoes sent into the prize court, which, under agreement, concluded some months ago with the Danish shipping lines, to avoid delay, were permitted to proceed to Denmark for return to England, or in certain cases for storage in Denmark until after the war under the joint supervision of the shipping company and the British legation. The Borsen also included in its Denmark figures, the statement says, cargoes destined for other countries, like Norway.

## DAILY MAIL AND MORNING POST STICK TO THEIR GROUND

The government's reply to the allegations of the Daily Mail and the Morning Post concerning looseness in the blockade against Germany is the subject of editorial comment in the morning papers. While the Daily Mail and the Morning Post stick to their ground and declare that the government's statement deals mostly with side issues, other newspapers assert that the government's reply is absolutely convincing and unanswerable.

The Daily News says: "There has rarely appeared a more crushing exposure than that issued by the government in reply to the latest Northcliffe scandal. The freethrivers of the press have demanded that we brush neutrals out of our path with a strong hand, but what would be the position of entire allies if the vast resources of the United States ceased to be at their command?"

"The government's statement shows the present scheme of economic pressure is working on Germany with ruthless certainty."

"Anything more crushing than the government's reply cannot be imagined. The official statement shows the authors of the Daily Mail and Morning Post statistics made nearly every mistake that amateur statisticians could make."

The Post in its editorial columns defends its Washington correspondent's war-trade figures, concluding with a repetition of its demand that the admiralty, instead of the Foreign Office, be allowed to formulate the blockade requirements "in order to allay public misapprehensions."

In conclusion, the Post declares that the result of the Foreign Office's memorandum is that the country is in a state of dense confusion upon the most essential element in the conduct of the war.

## AMERICAN PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

LONDON, January 25.—The parliamentary correspondence of the Westminster Gazette says in reference to to-morrow's debate in the House of Commons on the blockade controversy that it can safely be said that the government has no intention of accepting the American proposal for a stricter blockade.

The correspondent forecasts that the House of Commons will take the view that a regular blockade would weaken Great Britain's hands and increase the friction with neutrals, and that the present friendly agreement with neutrals could not continue.

## LAST WORD IS SAID BY UNITED STATES

Settlement of Lusitania Case Now Rests Entirely With Berlin.

## PROPOSALS ARE REJECTED

Lansing Preparing Note Which Will Flatly Set Forth Demands.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, January 25.—The United States to-day rejected the German government's proposals for settlement of the Lusitania case. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, was summoned to the State Department this afternoon and advised of this decision.

Immediately thereafter Secretary Lansing began preparation of a communication to Berlin that will flatly set forth the terms of agreement insisted upon by the United States.

Count von Bernstorff will be called to the State Department to-morrow morning to confer with Secretary Lansing before the final terms of the communication are decided upon. The German ambassador will then cable the communication to Berlin, accompanying the communication with a request to his government for favorable consideration.

## WILL HANG IN BALANCE UNTIL REPLY IS RECEIVED

The Lusitania question will hang in the balance until a reply is received from the German government.

It was stated in the most authoritative quarters to-night that the question of whether the Lusitania case is to be settled rests entirely with Berlin. The United States has said the last word.

Rejection of the German government's proposals for settlement of the Lusitania case was announced after President Wilson and his Cabinet had given the most careful consideration to them at a session lasting more than two hours. The point of disagreement arose over the language used by Germany in meeting the demand made in the Lusitania note of July 21, that the imperial government "disavow" the wanton act of its naval commander in sinking the Lusitania.

## TEXT OF COMMUNICATION IS CAREFULLY GUARDED

While the text of the communication from Berlin was guarded carefully from the public both by the State Department and the German embassy, it may be stated that the German proposals carried the following provisions:

An implied admission that the killing of Americans aboard the Lusitania was illegal.

An offer to pay full indemnity for American lives lost, which was an admission of illegality.

An expression of sorrow for the death of Americans.

Assurances that there can be no repetition of the act in the light of Germany's pledges to abide by the conditions set forth by the United States that no further submarine attacks shall be made on passenger ships until passengers and crews have been put in places of safety.

An explanation that German submarine warfare in the war zone surrounding Great Britain was undertaken as a reprisal against the illegal British blockade, and that this policy of reprisal had been given up to meet the wishes of the United States.

Finally, that Germany accepts the invitation of the United States extended in the note of July 21, to co-operate with it in achieving freedom of the seas.

The entire disagreement is over the first two clauses. The United States wants an explicit, and not an implied admission of the illegality of the Lusitania attack.

## UNITED STATES WANTS ADMISSION OF OBLIGATION

The United States also wants more than an offer from Germany to pay its legal obligation to pay indemnity for American lives lost.

Failure of the Lusitania negotiations at a time when hopes were highest was a distinct disappointment in official and diplomatic quarters.

Secretary Lansing presented an unusually grave demeanor when he made an announcement concerning the Lusitania after his conference with Count Bernstorff. The ambassador's bearing was also grave as he left the department.

Secretary Lansing made his announcement in a few words. He said: "I have had an interview with the German ambassador on the Lusitania case and we both have agreed not to say anything about it."

Secretary Lansing then emphasized a demand he had made earlier in the day of the authenticity of a story appearing in the papers this morning.

"I said this morning what I am going to repeat again that the article in the papers this morning was the merest conjecture, and not founded on fact."

## BURGLAR VERY POLITE

Gently Blinds Girl With Rope and Blindfolds Her With Violet-Scented Handkerchief.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, January 25.—The story of a polite burglar, who gently bound her with a rope, blindfolded her with a violet-scented cambric handkerchief, and while apologizing, ransacked the bureau drawer, getting \$50 in cash, was told to the police to-day by pretty little Mary Finnigan, fifteen years old, whose father owns a restaurant at 75 Fulton Street. The Finnigan family lives upstairs.

It was said the thief missed jewelry valued at \$200 on top of the ransacked bureau.

## Severe Reverse for British Arms

Reports from Turkish headquarters are correct, the British forces in Mesopotamia suffered a severe reverse in their endeavor to reach the headwaters of the Tigris-Euphrates, on the Tigris River. Some twenty miles east of Kut-el-Amara the Turks, in counterattacks, drove the British back several miles, the latter leaving on the field about 3,000 dead. The Turkish losses are declared to have been comparatively slight.

It was after this fight, which lasted six hours, that General Aylmer is declared to have requested and obtained a truce of one day. In order that the dead might be buried.

The British advancing from Montebello, on the Shatt-el-Bid River, south of Kut-el-Amara, toward Korna, also were compelled to retreat before a Turkish attack, says the report, leaving 100 men dead. The British reverse at the hands of the Turks, however, is somewhat offset by the Turkish losses in battles with Russians in the neighborhood of Erzerum. A dispatch from Petrograd asserts that, apart from the casualties in actual battle, the Turks lost fifty officers and 5,000 men taken prisoner, and also scores of machine guns and quantities of munitions captured.

Allied airmen have again dropped bombs on Monastir and Givetzli, and 100 persons are estimated to have been killed or wounded in the latter town. The Germans have dropped explosives from aircraft on Dunkirk, where five persons were killed, and on the aerodrome at Nancy and factories in Baccarat.

## THOUSANDS OF ENGLISH ARE LEFT DEAD ON FIELD

General Aylmer's Relief Expedition to Kut-el-Amara Disastrously Defeated by Turks.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, January 25.—General Aylmer's relief expedition has been defeated by the Turks with great loss on the Tigris.

"We counted 3,000 English dead," says a Reuters dispatch from Constantinople, quoting from a Turkish official report. This was the result of a six-hour battle in which all the British attempts to break through the cordon of Ottoman troops around Kut-el-Amara were repulsed.

This battle was fought near Menabih, which is twenty-two miles east of Kut, while the last battle reported was at Sheikh Said, which is only six miles east of the beleaguered town.

In this earlier battle the English lost 2,000 in killed and wounded, according to Berlin reports quoting English prisoners, making 6,000 casualties in these two battles.

## SECOND ENGAGEMENT NOT SO DISASTROUS

A second engagement reported in today's Turkish official statement was west of Korna. This was not so disastrous to the British, although in their retreat they left 1,500 dead on the field.

The significant statement is made with relation to the battle at Menabih that General Aylmer asked for one day's truce in which to bury his dead.

The Turkish official statement follows: "On the Irak front, the engagements continue about the Kut-el-Amara position. English forces coming from Imam-el-Gharbi on Friday attacked the Turkish positions near Menabih, about thirty-five kilometers (twenty-two miles) east of Kut-el-Amara on both banks of the Tigris."

"The engagement lasted for six hours. All the English attacks were repulsed by counterattacks. The English were driven back several kilometers to the eastward. About 3,000 English dead were left on the battle field. The Turkish losses were comparatively slight."

"General Aylmer asked for a day's truce to bury the dead."

"English prisoners state that the English also lost 3,000 in dead and wounded in the preceding engagements near Sheikh Said."

"The Turks attacked another English detachment which was advancing west of Korna from the direction of Montebello. The English were forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead."

"General Aylmer asked for a day's truce to bury the dead."

"The hostile artillery has shown activity near Commecourt, about Loos and at Hooge."

## BERLIN DENIES REPORTS OF MONTENEGRO DUPLICITY

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] BERLIN, January 25.—(wireless via Sayville).—The following announcement was made to-day at the general headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian army:

"All foreign reports about new combats in Montenegro are inventions. It is confirmed that King Nicholas has left his country and army. Up to the present it has not been ascertained in whose hands the real government rests, but this is completely without importance, so far as the military result of the Montenegrin campaign is concerned."

"The disarming of the Montenegrin army progresses without interruption. At all places where Austro-Hungarian troops arrive the Montenegrin battalions, under command of their officers, surrender their arms without delay. Numerous detachments from districts not yet occupied by us have

## ARTILLERY DUEL SPREADS ALONG WESTERN FRONT

Germans and Allies Are at Grips From Mouth of Yser to Ypres.

## SECOND "DRIVE ON CALAIS" IS QUICKLY CHALLENGED

Only at One Point Has Either Side Essayed an Attack.

## FRENCH TRENCHES SHATTERED

Counterattacks Clear Tumbled Works and Position Is Maintained.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, January 25.—The Germans and the allies are at grips in Flanders in one of the most gigantic artillery duels in history. An apparent attempt of the Germans to repeat their historic "drive on Calais" in the fall of 1914 and the spring of 1915 has been challenged by the allies with all the energy of their months of accumulation in munitions.

At only a single point has either side essayed an attack. This was near Neuville-St. Vaast. The French trenches were shattered, small captures of men and guns were made and a section of the French first-line trenches were penetrated, but counterattacks again cleared the tumbled works, and the French maintained their position.

Starting with a bombardment of Neuport, at the mouth of the Yser, by the German batteries, the artillery duel has spread along the whole Yser front almost to Ypres.

## VIOLENT BOMBARDMENT OF GERMAN WORKS

The French artillery, acting in concert with the British, to-day carried out a violent bombardment of the German works southeast of Boesinghe, inflicting serious damage, says to-night's Paris communique.

German shell fire has destroyed the Templar Tower and Cathedral of